

Minutes of Annual Church Meeting – Monday 21st March 2021, 7.30pm in Church

Reports and other paperwork on website: <https://www.allsaintschurchmkvillage.co.uk/printable-leaflets/>

Present: Matt Trendall (Chair), Ian Corlett, Barny Daley, Amanda Kingston, Gloria Terrelonge, Paul Terrelonge, Carolyn Sanderson, Dawn Bromley, Nick Mills, Rosie Neale, Gill Farrow, Niki Mitro, Sylvia Bennett.

Apologies: Sandra Mills, Alise Trendall, Pippa Daley, Paul Neale, Mark Mitro, Pat & David Sawyer, Wayne & Pauline Webb, Virginia Kagunda, Catherine & Michael Held, Jane Charman, Joan Ellis, Ann Harris.

1. **Opening devotions:** the meeting opened with a reading from Joshua 1 (verses 6-9) and the parallels between Israel's challenges and navigating the pandemic: how despite the pain and circumstances outside of our control, God has been powerfully at work, shaping us. God's declaration to Joshua is ours, too: (a) hold fast to the Word; (b) claim the promise that, if we remain faithful and obedient, God is with us wherever we go.
2. **Election of churchwardens:** Pat Sawyer has kindly agreed to serve for another year. Barny Daley has also now agreed to stand as churchwarden. Matt proposed a big vote of thanks to Pat for her outstanding work, and both Pat and Matt are delighted that Barny is standing. Pat was proposed by Paul Terrelonge and seconded by Rosie Neale; Barny was proposed by Gill Farrow and seconded by Gloria Terrelonge; both were elected unanimously to serve as churchwarden. Matt shared that it is the first time in the 8 ½ years he has been here that we have a full complement of churchwardens across both All Saints and St Mary's!
3. **Apologies:** see above.
4. **Minutes of 2021 ACM:** Ian Corlett proposed, Gloria Terrelonge seconded and these minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting nem. con..
5. **Matters arising:** (a) Walton Churches Partnership's registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Watling Valley LEP had now registered with the Charities Commission, and we (Walton LEP) have a copy of their registration document. Our basic paperwork is ready and we are now planning to register in the next few months. We have also received very valuable advice from Ali Corlett regarding the TUPE transfer of our Baptist Minister's employment status safely to the new CIO.

(b) Dissolution of the Milton Keynes Mission Partnership – this had been a very painful process in 2021, and is now almost complete: a meeting next week will likely approve a resolution for the charity to be wound up. Both staff have been made redundant and are completing their notice periods – we have a particular pastoral concern for them as both are connected with our church. There are plans for a new Churches Together in MK but there is a sense that many need time to rest and heal after the loss of the Mission Partnership. More details will be shared in due course. Our status as an LEP is not directly affected by what has happened, though we have lost a great support network for our ecumenical churches.

(c) Current practical projects: we are seeking approval from the diocese for a new Garden of Rest for interments of ashes. The site has been approved by the church council, and Matt and Pat are pulling the paperwork together for submission. Amanda and Michael Kingston are kindly leading a project to install Wi-Fi in the church: this is likely to be via a 'hotspot' (mobile data device) and contracts with various potential providers are being costed. We are also exploring putting step-free access into church and a new server at the back: Matt and Pat met with the church architect in February and are awaiting formal costings and proposals. Grants should be available (and will be applied for) in regard to the latter two projects.
6. **Reports:** (a) Matt thanked Pat for her excellent **Churchwarden's Report**, which includes a full update on matters relating to the building and churchyard – a copy of this report is available separately (on the church website).

(b) Ian gave a **summary of the 2021 accounts**. Overall we had a remarkable surplus of approx £5k in our day-to-day funds, meaning that we effectively 'broke even' over the two years of the pandemic. This was an amazing outcome, and Ian thanked the generosity of many church members. Full details of the financial picture are available in the separate accounts/report which is available on the church website.

We have still set a fairly conservative budget for 2022, forecasting a loss of just under £2k. Whilst fees will likely pick up this year and there may be Fair income, the huge rise in energy prices may offset these. Matt thanked Ian for his outstanding work, and also Pat for banking monies. Ian is happy to stand again as treasurer. (The voting for church officers and appointments is in item 7.)

(c) Matt reported that **church membership** stands at 68 adults and 21 u18s – this compares to 64 and 24 last year. The 68 adults identify as 40 Anglican and 26 non-Anglican (2 'not stated'). Our reported Electoral Roll is 44 (vs 40 last year) – this is calculated in a fairly esoteric but consistent way, to avoid double counting church members with our parent denominations. More detail relating to these figures is on the church website.

Brief summary of other church life in MK: there continue to be many great initiatives led by churches across MK. Last year a new charity to look after refugees – Welcome MK – was formed after the Afghan crisis and is based in Newport Pagnell Baptist Church. It is now focussing on Ukraine. Other projects such as Winter Night Shelter and St. Mark's Meals which we have long supported continue to offer the love of Christ in practical ways.

Matt also noted that as a Partnership there was a slight surplus in funds for 2021 and given the unique situation of the last two years we give thanks to God and to our congregations that we have been able to pay our shares in full. We have also pledged to donate an extra £4,500 in 2022 to support some of the other parishes in Milton Keynes who are struggling financially due to the pandemic.

7. Elections and Appointments:

The Stewards Council is comprised of: Matt (Chair), Barny and Pat (Wardens), plus the following:

Ayokunnu Otunla (WCP Link Rep)
Virginia Kagunda (Prayer Steward)
Carolyn Sanderson (Worship)
Gloria Terrelonge (Worship & Weddings)
Niki Mitro (Community)
Amanda Kingston (Special Events)
Wayne Webb & Paul Terrelonge (Building & Maintenance)
Dawn Bromley (Families/Children & Young People)
Ian Corlett (Treasurer, *co-opted onto Council*)

Matt gave a vote of thanks to Moira & Paul North and Mark Mitro as they stood down, and welcomed Niki Mitro and Amanda Kingston formally to the Stewards' Council.

WCP & Deanery link posts: all current reps are standing again and were unanimously re-appointed:

Carolyn Sanderson & Ayokunnu Otunla (Walton Churches Partnership reps)
Carolyn Sanderson (Deanery Synod rep) – *appointed for a 3-yr term in 2020*

Independent Examiner: Manish Patel

Nick Mills proposed and Gill Farrow seconded that all of these people be appointed to their roles – this was approved unanimously.

Matt then proposed a big vote of thanks to all those serving in these leadership roles, and for all they bring to our church's life.

8. **Safeguarding and re-appointment of Safeguarding Officer and Responsible Adult** (previously known as Children's Advocate). Rachael Jenkins from Christ the King is our Safeguarding Officer, representing the whole Partnership. She has performed the role for seven years and keeps us up-to-date with everything. Ayokunnu Otunla looks after All Saints DBS checks, Sandra Mills is our Responsible Adult, and Matt thanked them all for the good work they do. Our policy would be reviewed and upgraded in eighteen months time. A summary has been provided for this meeting, but the full policy document is 60 pages long and is available on the WCP website.

It was proposed by Sylvia Bennett, seconded by Rosie Neale and carried unanimously that our Safeguarding Policy be readopted and that Rachael be reappointed as our Safeguarding Officer and Sandra as our Responsible Adult

9. **Rector's Report:** available separately on the church website. Matt gave a summary to the meeting.
10. **Questions/Feedback** – it was generally felt that we are in good heart and thankful for the way we had navigated this season.
11. **Any other business** – none
12. **Closing Devotions** – we concluded by saying the Grace together at 8.50pm.